United Nations S/2011/227

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 April 2011

Original: English

Identical letters dated 7 April 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to express my grave concern in the face of yet another very serious escalation of Palestinian terrorist attacks targeting innocent Israeli civilians, including children.

Earlier today, Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip fired a Kornet anti-tank missile that struck and completely destroyed a school bus travelling in the close vicinity of Kibbutz Sa'ad in Southern Israel, critically injuring a 16-year-old boy with shrapnel wounds to the head and causing moderate injuries to the bus driver. The two civilians injured were the only people on the bus at the time; however, just minutes before it was attacked, this bus was full of children who were travelling home from school.

This appalling attack on Israeli children was part of a barrage of some 45 mortars and Qassam rockets that terrorists in the Gaza Strip fired today at communities in southern Israel, which landed in the areas of Sha'ar Hanegev and Eshkol, where the explosion of a mortar caused damage to a home.

Today's very troubling attacks follow a marked increase in terrorist activity directed at Israeli civilians. In the last month we have witnessed the launch of more than 100 mortars and rockets from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel, which represents an unprecedented increase in the projectile fire emanating from the Gaza Strip since the end of Operation Cast Lead in 2009. The terrorists behind these attacks continue to indiscriminately and deliberately target civilians — from schoolchildren in buses to people in their homes to farmers cultivating their fields.

As I highlighted in previous letters to the Council on 23 March 2011, 19 March 2011, 23 February 2011, 9 February 2011, and 2 February 2011, such attacks emanating from the Gaza Strip constitute a clear violation of international law and must be addressed with the utmost seriousness.

Israel holds the Hamas terrorist organization, the de facto authority in the Gaza Strip, fully responsible for all attacks emanating from the Gaza Strip. The relentless projectile fire emanating from the Gaza Strip is just one of many significant security threats facing the Israeli civilian population. In response to the continued attacks against it, Israel has exercised and will continue to exercise its right to self-defence, as appropriate and will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens.

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I would also like to note that the use of a sophisticated anti-tank missile in today's attack to target Israeli children provides another clear example of the dangerous and destabilizing consequences of the continued illegal smuggling of arms into the Gaza Strip. In my letters to the Security Council on 19 March 2011 and 18 March 2011, I highlighted an example of one recent attempt by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic to transfer weaponry, including C-704 advanced anti-ship missiles and mortar shells, to terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip when three concealed containers of arms, munitions, and military equipment were captured on board the *Victoria* cargo vessel.

This attempt to transfer weaponry from Iran to terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip through Syria constitutes a blatant violation of numerous Security Council resolutions, and represents only the tip of the iceberg of these two countries illegal efforts to smuggle weapons into the Gaza Strip.

Israel expects the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the international community to condemn all of these attacks in very clear terms and send a firm message to these terrorists and their patrons, who seek to escalate conflict in our region. In addition, the Security Council and the international community must devote much more attention to preventing the smuggling of arms into the Gaza Strip. Unfortunately, this important issue, an integral part of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), does not receive the appropriate attention that it deserves.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Meron **Reuben**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations

United Nations S/2011/228

Security Council

Distr.: General
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Colombia, Denmark, France, Gabon, India, Italy, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain and Ukraine: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions concerning the situation in Somalia, especially resolutions 1918 (2010) and 1950 (2010),

Continuing to be gravely concerned by the growing threat that piracy and armed robbery at sea against vessels pose to the situation in Somalia and other States in the region, as well as to international navigation, the safety of commercial maritime routes and the safety of seafarers and other persons, and also gravely concerned by the increased level of violence employed by pirates and persons involved in armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia,

Strongly condemning the growing practice of hostage-taking by pirates operating off the coast of Somalia, *expressing serious concern* at the inhuman conditions hostage face in captivity, *recognizing* the adverse impact on their families, *calling for* the immediate release of all hostages, and *noting* the importance of cooperation between Member States on the issue of hostage-taking,

Emphasizing the importance of finding a comprehensive solution to the problem of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia,

Stressing the need to build Somalia's potential for sustainable economic growth as a means to tackle the underlying causes of piracy, including poverty, thus contributing to a durable eradication of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia and illegal activities connected therewith,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia, including Somalia's rights with respect to offshore natural resources, including fisheries, in accordance with international law, *recalling* the importance of preventing, in accordance with international law, illegal fishing and illegal dumping, including of toxic substances, and *stressing* the need to investigate allegations of such illegal fishing and dumping,

Being concerned at the same time that allegations of illegal fishing and dumping of toxic waste in Somali waters have been used by pirates in an attempt to justify their criminal activities,

Reaffirming that international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (Convention), in particular

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its articles 100, 101 and 105, sets out the legal framework applicable to combating piracy and armed robbery at sea, as well as other ocean activities,

Further reaffirming that the provisions of this resolution apply only with respect to the situation in Somalia and do not affect the rights and obligations or responsibilities of Member States under international law;

Reiterating its call upon States and regional organizations that have the capacity to do so, to take part in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, in particular, consistent with resolution 1950 (2010) and applicable international law, including human rights law, by deploying naval vessels, arms and military aircraft and through seizures and disposition of boats, vessels, arms and other related equipment used in the commission of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, or for which there are reasonable grounds for suspecting such use,

Underlining the importance of enhancing ongoing work to address the problems caused by the limited capacity of the judicial system of Somalia and other States in the region to effectively prosecute suspected pirates,

Noting with appreciation the assistance being provided by the United Nations, including its Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and other international organizations and donors, in coordination with the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), to enhance the capacity of the judicial and the corrections systems in Somalia, Kenya, Seychelles and other States in the region to prosecute suspected, and imprison convicted, pirates consistent with applicable international human rights law,

Commending those States that have amended their domestic law in order to criminalize piracy and facilitate the prosecution of suspected pirates in their national courts, consistent with applicable international law, including human rights law, and stressing the need for States to continue their efforts in this regard,

Noting with concern at the same time that the domestic law of a number of States lacks provisions criminalizing piracy and/or procedural provisions for effective criminal prosecution of suspected pirates,

Further expressing concern over a large number of persons suspected of piracy having to be released without facing justice, *reaffirming* that the failure to prosecute persons responsible for acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia undermines anti-piracy efforts of the international community and *being determined* to create conditions to ensure that pirates are held accountable,

Recognizing the urgent need to undertake decisive further steps to boost anti-piracy efforts,

Expressing its gratitude for the work done by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Legal Issues Related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia Mr. Jack Lang in order to explore new solutions to counter more effectively piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, including by more effective prosecution of suspected, and imprisonment of convicted pirates, and *noting with appreciation* the conclusions and proposals set forth in his report to the Security Council contained in the annex to document S/2011/30,

Determining that the incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia exacerbate the situation in Somalia, which continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Legal Issues Related to Piracy off the coast of Somalia;

2. *Recognizes* that the ongoing instability in Somalia is one of the underlying causes of the problem of piracy and contributes to the problem of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, and *stresses* the need for a comprehensive response to tackle piracy and its underlying causes by the international community;

3. *Calls upon* States to cooperate, as appropriate, on the issue of hostage-taking;

4. *Requests* States, UNODC, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) and regional organizations to assist the TFG and regional authorities in Somalia in establishing a system of governance, rule of law and police control in lawless areas where land-based activities related to piracy are taking place and also requests the TFG and regional authorities in Somalia to increase their own efforts in this regard;

5. *Requests* States and regional organizations to support sustainable economic growth in Somalia thus contributing to a durable eradication of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, as well as other illegal activities connected therewith, in particular in priority areas recommended by the Istanbul conference on piracy in Somalia;

6. *Invites* States and regional organizations to continue their support and assistance to Somalia in its efforts to develop national fisheries and port activities in line with the Regional Plan of Action, and in this regard *emphasizes* the importance of the earliest possible delimitation of Somalia's maritime spaces in accordance with the Convention;

7. *Recalls* preambular paragraphs 6 and 7 above and operative paragraph 2 of resolution 1950 (2010), and *requests* the Secretary-General to report within six months on the protection of Somali natural resources and waters, and on alleged illegal fishing and illegal dumping, including of toxic substances, off the coast of Somalia, taking into account the studies on this matter previously conducted by the United Nations Environmental Programme and other competent agencies and organizations, and expresses its readiness to keep the matter under review;

8. *Urges* States individually or within the framework of competent international organizations to positively consider investigating allegations of illegal fishing and illegal dumping, including of toxic substances, with a view to prosecuting such offences when committed by persons under their jurisdiction;

9. *Calls upon* States and regional organizations cooperating with the TFG in the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia to further increase their coordination to effectively deter, prevent and respond to pirate attacks, including through the CGPCS;

10. *Encourages* States and regional organisations cooperating with the TFG to assist Somalia in strengthening its coastguard capacity, in particular by

supporting the development of land-based coastal monitoring and increasing their cooperation with the Somali regional authorities in this regard, as appropriate, after having any necessary approval from the Council's Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009);

11. *Calls on* States, regional organizations, the United Nations, IMO and other appropriate partners to provide all necessary technical and financial support to the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct, the Regional Plan of Action for Maritime Security in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean agreed by Ministers in Mauritius in October 2010, and the CGPCS regional needs assessment report, recognizing the political will expressed by regional countries in these documents to combat piracy by all means possible, including through prosecution and imprisonment;

12. *Commends* the efforts of the shipping industry, in cooperation with the CGPCS and IMO, in developing and disseminating the updated version of the Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and in the Arabian Sea Area (BMP) and *emphasizes* the critical importance for the shipping industry of applying the best practices recommended in the BMP;

13. *Urges* all States, including States in the region, to criminalize piracy under their domestic law, emphasizing the importance of criminalizing incitement, facilitation, conspiracy and attempts to commit acts of piracy;

14. *Recognizes* that piracy is a crime subject to universal jurisdiction and in that regard *reiterates its call on* States to favourably consider the prosecution of suspected, and imprisonment of convicted, pirates apprehended off the coast of Somalia, consistent with applicable international human rights law;

15. *Underlines* the need to investigate and prosecute those who illicitly finance, plan, organize, or unlawfully profit from pirate attacks off the coast of Somalia, recognizing that individuals and entities who incite or intentionally facilitate an act of piracy are themselves engaging in piracy as defined under international law and expresses its intention to keep under review the possibility of applying targeted sanctions against such individuals and entities if they meet the listing criteria set out in paragraph 8 resolution 1844 (2008);

16. *Invites* States, individually or in cooperation with regional organizations, UNODC and INTERPOL, to examine their domestic legal frameworks for detention at sea of suspected pirates to ensure that their laws provide reasonable procedures, consistent with applicable international human rights law, and *also invites* States to examine domestic procedures for the preservation of evidence that may be used in criminal proceedings to ensure the admissibility of such evidence, and encourages the CGPCS to contribute to this work;

17. *Further invites* States and regional organizations, individually or in cooperation with, among others, UNODC and INTERPOL, to assist Somalia and other States of the region in strengthening their counter-piracy law enforcement capacities, including implementation of anti-money-laundering laws, the establishment of Financial Investigation Units and strengthening forensic capacities, as tools against international criminal networks involved in piracy, and *stresses* in this context the need to support the investigation and prosecution of those who illicitly finance, plan, organize, or unlawfully profit from pirate attacks off the coast of Somalia;

18. *Underlines* the importance of continuing to enhance the collection, preservation and transmission to competent authorities of evidence of acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, and *welcomes* further work of IMO, INTERPOL and industry groups to assist in providing guidance to seafarers on preservation of crime scenes following acts of piracy, noting the importance for the successful prosecution of acts of piracy of enabling seafarers to give evidence in criminal proceedings;

19. *Urges* States and international organizations to share evidence and information for anti-piracy law enforcement purposes with a view to ensuring effective prosecution of suspected, and imprisonment of convicted, pirates;

20. *Requests* States, UNODC and regional organizations to consider, consistent with applicable rules of international human rights law, measures aimed at facilitating the transfer of suspected pirates for trial, and convicted pirates for imprisonment, including through relevant transfer agreements or arrangements, and commends the efforts to date of the CGPCS in this regard;

21. *Welcomes* the readiness of the national and regional administrations of Somalia to cooperate with each other and with States who have prosecuted suspected pirates with a view to enabling convicted pirates to be repatriated back to Somalia under suitable prisoner transfer arrangements, consistent with applicable international law including international human rights law, *recognizes* in this regard the discussions between the Government of Seychelles and the national and regional administrations of Somalia, which resulted in an agreement in principle of a legal framework for the transfer of convicted pirates to Somalia after their prosecution and conviction in the Seychelles, and *encourages* States to continue their efforts in this regard;

22. *Urges* States, UNODC, based on support from donors, and regional organizations to consolidate international assistance to increase prison capacity in Somalia, including by constructing in the short-term additional prisons in Puntland and Somaliland, and *requests* UNODC to continue to provide training for prison staff in accordance with relevant international human rights standards and to continue to provide monitoring of compliance with such standards;

23. *Requests* the TFG, with the assistance of UNODC, to elaborate and adopt a complete set of counter-piracy laws, and in this regard, welcomes the positive steps made in Puntland, and the progress being made in Somaliland;

24. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure effective coordination of anti-piracy efforts and in that regard *requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen UNPOS as the United Nations focal point for counter-piracy, including the Kampala process;

25. *Supports* the ongoing efforts by regional States in the development of anti-piracy courts or chambers in the region, welcomes support by States and international organizations, in consultation with the CGPCS, to such efforts, and requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to assist States and international organizations in such activities;

26. *Decides* to urgently consider the establishment of specialized Somali courts to try suspected pirates both in Somalia and in the region, including an extraterritorial Somali specialized anti-piracy court, as referred to in the recommendations contained in the report of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-

General on Legal Issues Related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia Mr. Jack Lang (annex to document S/2011/30), consistent with applicable human rights law, and requests the Secretary-General to report within two months on the modalities of such prosecution mechanisms, including on the participation of international personnel and on other international support and assistance, taking into account the work of the CGPCS and in consultation with concerned regional States and *expresses* its intention to take further decisions on this matter;

27. *Urges* both State and non-State actors affected by piracy, most notably the international shipping community, to provide support for the above-mentioned judicial and detention related projects through the Trust Fund Supporting the Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the coast of Somalia;

28. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations A/ES-10/516–S/2011/229

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 April 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 8 April 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to you with grave concern regarding the intensification of military aggression by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people in the besieged Gaza Strip. Thirteen Palestinian civilians, including women, have been killed and dozens more have been injured by a series of Israeli air strikes in addition to artillery fire against the Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours. Among the innocent civilians brutally murdered by the occupying Power were a mother and her daughter.

In the light of the dangerous deterioration of the situation and escalation of tensions, the Palestinian leadership appeals to the international community to call on Israel to cease its military attacks against the Gaza Strip, to abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law and to cease forthwith all attacks against the Palestinian civilian population and all forms of military reprisals and collective punishment against them. This is imperative to stop the bloodshed and to avert a return to the vicious cycle of violence that has consumed so many innocent lives and wrought vast destruction and devastation on our people.

Yesterday, 7 April, military air strikes were launched by the Israeli occupying forces against the Rafah, Khan Younis and Gaza City areas of the Gaza Strip, killing five Palestinians. Among those killed was a 50-year-old man, Mahmoud Al-Manasra, who died after shells were fired near his home in the Shuja'iyya neighbourhood of Gaza City. Five other civilians, including a young child, were also injured in the attack. In another military attack, the occupying forces killed four Palestinians, Salah Al-Tarabeen, age 38, Mus'ab Al-Sufi, age 18, Muhammad Al-Mahmoum, age 25, and Khaled Al-Dubari, age 21.

The occupying Power's military attacks continued today, being carried out deliberately and with indiscriminate and excessive force, in accordance with the recent declarations made by Israeli leaders regarding their intentions to continue to assault the Gaza Strip. Thus far today, Israeli military strikes in and around Gaza City, Rafah and Khan Younis have killed six more Palestinians and injured dozens

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more. In these attacks, the occupying forces struck a home and killed a woman, Najah Qudaih, age 45, and her daughter, Nidal Qudaih, age 21, injured another daughter and three more civilians. Talal Abu Taha, age 55, was killed in yet another air strike, while an assault against the town of Khuza'a resulted in the killing of two Palestinian men, Abdallah Al-Qarra and Mo'taz Abu Jamei. Also today, the occupying forces killed Ra'ed Shehada, age 27, in Beit Lahiya, as well as Ahmed Ghorab, age 31, and Mahmoud Wa'el Al-Jaru in Shuja'iyya in Gaza City.

The Palestinian leadership condemns these brutal and unlawful military attacks against the Palestinian civilian population and calls for a halt to all acts of Israeli aggression and terror against our people. In this regard, it must be recalled that the Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are entitled to protection under international humanitarian law and they must not continue to be denied this protection and to be subjected to the merciless assaults and systematic human rights violations being perpetrated by the occupying Power with impunity. In this connection, we reiterate the demand for the immediate and complete lifting of the inhumane, illegal and immoral blockade imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip for nearly four years now, which amounts to the collective punishment of 1.5 million people.

At the same time, we are compelled to underscore once again the critical situation on the ground in the West Bank due to the continuation and escalation of other illegal Israeli policies and practices. In particular, Israel's illegal and aggressive colonization campaign continues apace. In addition to the recent provocative declaration of the intention to construct more illegal settlement units in Occupied East Jerusalem, the Israeli occupying forces have in recent days carried out the destruction of more Palestinian property and land. Homes, newly paved roads, farm buildings and lighting infrastructure were destroyed by Israeli bulldozers in the village of Al-Aqaba in the Tubas area in the northern Jordan Valley yesterday, 7 April. The head of the village Council has alarmingly indicated that the occupying Power has served the village in recent years with numerous demolition orders, leaving 95 per cent of the village homes subject to demolition. Moreover, extremist settlers continue to rampage through the Occupied Palestinian Territory and have caused destruction to more Palestinian agricultural land in an area south of Al-Khalil (Hebron).

The occupying Power also continues to arrest and detain Palestinian civilians, including women, violating their human rights and subjecting them to severe intimidation and humiliation. In this regard, we must draw your attention to a recent raid by the Israeli occupying forces on the village of Awarta, east of Nablus in the northern West Bank, a village that has been subjected to numerous raids in recent weeks in connection with Israeli interrogations and investigations regarding the killing of a family in a nearby settlement. On Thursday, 7 April, hundreds of Israeli troops entered the village shortly after midnight, raiding homes and rounding up dozens of men and women in the darkness of the night. At least 100 Palestinian women, some elderly, were arrested and forced into a camp, where soldiers subjected them to questioning, fingerprinting and DNA testing. This incident has further deepened the trauma and fear that prevails among the Palestinian civilian population as a result of such systematic harassment, intimidation, use of force and collective punishment carried out by the occupying Power.

In the light of the gravity of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the Gaza Strip at present, the Palestinian leadership calls on the international community to act with urgency to prevent the slaughter of more innocent civilians and to prevent the further deterioration of this already tense and volatile situation. The international community must assume its responsibilities under international law to ensure that Israel, the occupying Power, respects all of its obligations under the law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and relevant United Nations resolutions. It should not absolve Israel of these obligations by permitting such military attacks, the killing and injury of innocent civilians, the destruction of property, the colonization of the Palestinian land and the arbitrary imprisonment and detention of Palestinian civilians to be perpetrated with total impunity and without accountability. The Security Council in particular is urged to act to uphold its own resolutions in this regard and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 388 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 5 April 2011 (A/ES-10/515-S/2011/224) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

United Nations S/2011/230

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 April 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 7 April 2011 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I am transmitting herewith a letter dated 21 March 2011 from the Chairman of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established by the Security Council in its resolution 1612 (2005), based on the Working Group's conclusions on children and armed conflict in Somalia adopted on 25 February 2011 (S/AC.51/2011/2) (see annex).

(*Signed*) Néstor **Osorio**
President of the Security Council

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Annex to the letter dated 7 April 2011 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

At its 28th meeting, on 22 December 2010, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the third report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Somalia (S/2010/577), covering the period 31 May 2008 to 31 March 2010. At its 29th meeting, on 25 February 2011, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on children and armed conflict in Somalia (S/AC.51/2011/2).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group, which were approved by the Security Council, and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009), I am entrusted in my capacity as the Chairman of the Working Group, to commend the establishment of the country-level task force on monitoring and reporting at the highest level, and requesting you to strengthen monitoring and reporting of the situation of children in Somalia and, through the established country-level task force, to support the Transitional Federal Government in the preparation of a time-bound action plan to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers and to conduct a dialogue with all other stakeholders, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009).

The Working Group invites you to strengthen the child protection component of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and to include information on this aspect in the update to be provided in your next report to the Security Council, to be submitted in April 2011, in accordance with paragraph 20 of resolution 1910 (2010).

The Working Group invites you and the United Nations country team to explore ways to engage in dialogue with non-State armed groups for the purposes of child protection in the context of the cooperation framework between the United Nations and the Transitional Federal Government, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009).

The Working Group invites you to request the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, other relevant United Nations agencies and independent experts of the Human Rights Council, within their respective mandates, to assist the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia in strengthening national institutions, providing further assistance in the implementation of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and strengthening the education system, including in conflict-affected areas.

(*Signed*) Peter **Wittig**
Chairman
Security Council Working Group
on Children and Armed Conflict

United Nations S/2011/231

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 April 2011

Original: English

Identical letters dated 10 April 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Following my letter of 7 April 2011, I write again to express my grave concern as a result of a continued escalation in projectile attacks launched by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip against innocent Israeli civilians, posing a threat to stability in our region.

Since the appalling incident of 7 April 2011, in which two Israeli civilians were injured when the Hamas terrorist organization attacked a school bus with an anti-tank missile, terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip have fired some 131 projectiles, including 12 Grad missiles, 70 Qassam rockets, and 49 mortars, at communities in southern Israel. These attacks have included the launch of Grad missiles at major population centres, such as the cities of Ashkelon and Be'er-Sheva, and caused significant damage to numerous civilian structures, including homes, a factory, water pipes and farm buildings.

These continuous attacks mark an escalation in projectile fire emanating from the Gaza Strip that has not been witnessed since the end of Operation Cast Lead in 2009. As a result of the persistent rocket fire, Israeli children were kept at home from school last week for the third time in the past month so that they could be in close proximity to bomb shelters at all times.

As I highlighted in previous letters to the Council on 7 April 2011, 23 March 2011, 19 March 2011, 23 February 2011, 9 February 2011 and 1 February 2011, such attacks emanating from the Gaza Strip constitute a clear violation of international law and must be addressed with the utmost seriousness.

Israel holds the Hamas terrorist organization, which remains in de facto control of the Gaza Strip, fully responsible for all attacks emanating from the Gaza Strip. In response to the relentless attacks against it, Israel has exercised and will continue to exercise its right to self-defence, as appropriate, and will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens.

The aforementioned attacks in which Grad missiles were used to attack the major Israeli cities of Be'er-Sheva and Ashkelon provide another clear example of the dangerous and destabilizing consequences of the continued illegal smuggling of arms into the Gaza Strip.

Israel expects the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the international community to condemn all of these attacks in very clear terms and send a firm

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message to these terrorists and their patrons, which seek to escalate conflict in our region. The Security Council and the international community must also devote much more attention to preventing the smuggling of arms into the Gaza Strip. Unfortunately, this important issue, an integral part of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), does not receive the appropriate attention that it deserves.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Meron **Reuben**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations